



McGregor W. Scott
United States Attorney
Eastern District of California

Sacramento
501 I. Street, Ste 10-100
Sacramento CA 95814
Tel (916) 554-2700
TTY (916) 554-2855

NEWS RELEASE

Fresno
2500 Tulare St., Suite 4401
Fresno, CA 93721
Tel (559) 497-4000
TTY (559) 497-4500

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 12, 2006

Contact: Patty Pontello, 916-554-2706

<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/cae>

SACRAMENTO COUNTY WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY
TO AGGRAVATED IDENTITY THEFT

SACRAMENTO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that PENISHA CHERIE WILLIAMS, 20, of Sacramento, California, pled guilty today before United States District Judge Lawrence K. Karlton to aggravated identity theft, a felony violation which has a mandatory minimum sentence of two years, and a fine of up to \$250,000.

This case is the product of an extensive joint investigation by the United States Postal Inspection Service and the Sacramento County Sheriff's Office.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Michelle Rodriguez, who is prosecuting the case, WILLIAMS admitted in her plea that she obtained stolen identification information of another female, and stole financial information and United States Mail of additional victims. Using the stolen information, WILLIAMS caused credit cards to be issued and obtained \$30,000 to \$70,000 in cash advances, credit purchases, and withdrawals from banks and casinos. WILLIAMS also lived in several luxury apartments under various names, and defaulted on rent payments. According to the plea agreement, WILLIAMS will make full restitution for her thefts.

WILLIAMS was arrested on May 8, 2006 by United States Postal Inspectors as she was leaving a Sacramento apartment complex where she had been living under a false identity. At the time of her arrest, WILLIAMS was on probation from Contra Costa County for similar identity theft crimes.

WILLIAMS is scheduled to be sentenced on November 28, 2006.

###